

New Bedford 11<sup>th</sup> mo 14<sup>th</sup> 1862

Dear Deborah,

So much time has elapsed since I received your last letter that I am somewhat in the condition of the "Skolasticos," who was ashamed to see the Doctor because he had not seen him for so long - truly am I ashamed of myself for this great neglect - I remember there were many inquiries in your letter but Frank & Thorry in their eagerness to get the postage stamps have shuffled it in among a pack of other letters and so for the present it is gone. You compliment me too much in speaking of my letters - "you do me proud" as the man Daill - If there are any remarkable "feu despirits" in my letters - the Eureka Mills should have the credit - where they are all ground out between the upper & the nether grindstone - amidst the noise of the machinery & the puffing of the Steam Engine - You know it is said "we cannot think in a mill" & I have found it so long ago - but as the great thoughts of the Nation are being ground out in Gods Mills, though slowly, perhaps these confused and scattering ideas of mine are assuming a definite shape as they go through the Hopper and if they are acceptable to you, I must of course be satisfied. In answer to your question "what do you think of dance"

Ms. A. 9. 2. 31. 24



He belongs to the Seward Party - Logic has dimmed  
his moral vision - but whether he has the "Nigger  
in the Brain" farther the dependent sageth not -  
He is the "laissez faire", the time serving policy -  
<sup>but</sup> ~~and~~ his speech at Worcester helped greatly in waking  
up the wrong passenger - I have been studying  
Mathematics lately and have at last solved  
the Problem, which now seems to me an axiomatic  
self evident truth - a good anecdote will at least  
partly illustrate it - The late Timothy Coffman used  
to tell the story, viz - as nearly as I remember it - A  
teacher gave the following question to one of his scholars  
a great Mathematician - Supposing a Frog is twenty  
feet deep in a well, & in trying to get out, falls  
back three feet, every time he jumped two up-  
wards - how long would it take him to get out -  
The boy immediately went to work and figured  
all night & over nearly all the slates in the school  
the next morning the teacher asked him how  
he was getting along - what were the chances  
of the frog, getting out - why says the Boy, not  
at all discouraged with his work - why says he  
the chances are good - I am getting along first  
rate - I have figured and put him half  
through HELL, and shall soon get him  
through - Now my case in some respects  
has been somewhat similar to the Frog - For years  
as you well know I have not voted from



conscientious scruples—like the drunken man  
when the Rev Sylvester Holmes found early  
one morning on his Church door steps, and asked  
"What are you doing there, what are you thinking<sup>ing</sup> of  
why to tell you the truth Mr Holmes, I have been  
thinking of joining your Church—but the more  
I think of it—the sicker (neccup) sicker ~~er~~ I grow"  
So the more I thought of voting, the more I felt  
I ought not to, and thus I advanced in a  
retrograde motion, going backward like a  
Ropemaker spinning Jarn—till I finally  
reached the bottom of the well where the Truth  
really was, and thereby solved the Problem  
not exactly by the Rules of Calculus, though  
Savari did apply that Rule, when he killed  
Goliath with a Stone & a Quidling (Cotton Gins  
being unknown in those days) but by the  
Mathematical Principle, that the Greater in-  
cludes the less—in other words that Freedom  
includes every thing that pertains to man's  
Happiness, and as there was a Political  
Party in this State pledged to do away  
with Slavery, and as our friend Sumner  
was so unscrupulously assailed ~~as well~~  
as Eliot—I felt it my duty to do all I could  
for the cause of Freedom and help this  
Political Machinery along, I voted the whole  
Republican ticket, and ~~was~~ thankful,



I could do so. There was so much reinforcing among  
my friends, that I began to think they would bring  
out the Fatted Calf. How proudly the Old Ship  
Massachusetts floats on these troubled waters. She  
"She has sustained the honor so justly awarded her  
in times past" - Truly can I say with Perceval "Hail  
to the Land wherein we trace, our fondest boast  
Yes the Old Bay State is <sup>the</sup> Beacon light - the sea-  
tormented Mariner looks to her for Hope - the great  
Charts & Maps of God, which Garrison, Phillips  
Parker & others have unfolded have been carefully  
examined & studied by Andrews, Sumner, Eliot  
et id genus omne, and found to be the only  
true and unerring guides to sail across  
this stormy sea. - in the language of Webster  
"Where American Liberty raised its first voice  
where its youth was nurtured & sustained, there  
it still stands in the strength of its manhood  
and full of its original spirit." The March of  
the Anglo Saxon - this combination of Religion & Intellect  
is not only onward to Richman, but onward to  
Freedom - McClellan is removed the window is open  
and the clear light & pure air already invigorates us  
May Burnside be as "loyal to humanity, and the justice  
of our common nature" & "disloyal to the Northern People  
& the Prejudice of Race, as when he unfurled the  
Stars & Stripes in sight of Roanoke and took for  
that little canoe, the Black Man for his Pilot."



Daniel wrote the enclosed piece <sup>2</sup> before Election - he votes also -

Nov. 14, 62  
Fanny, the Children & Ruth are all well. Ruth  
will spend a part of her vacation with Cousin  
Mina Kent - I hope she may meet you in Boston  
he leaves here a week from Tuesday next  
& remains <sup>the</sup> rest of the week - Poor Sarah Ann  
has fallen very much lately - she grows weaker  
& weaker - the nearest of a living skeleton as I  
ever saw - it does not seem to me that she can  
last much longer - she sits up part of the day,  
what keeps body & soul together is more than I can  
divine - she enjoys life notwithstanding Mary  
Triggs came this morning to make a short visit  
Brother Daniel's family are well - Arthur was  
at New Orleans last accounts still in the same  
ship the Nightingale - which was going to be refitted  
with heavier masts with large guns & sent on a  
cruise the prospect of which was delightful  
to Arthur, as his life has been so monotonous  
the last year vibrating between Key West & New Orleans  
only - Capt Thos R Rodman returned home last  
Sunday on a furlough of twenty days - Ever since  
he left Lynnfield he has been more or less sick  
first with a dysentery, and as soon as he  
recovered from this, a Bilious fever set in -  
he left the Camp & was at the Cutaw House  
Baltimore for two weeks or more - Edmund & his  
wife were sent for & remained there till they  
returned with him - I have seen him twice



spent last evening with <sup>him</sup> - he rides out & will keep  
out in the yard yesterday - but is very weak -  
if you reme'mber he had a severe fit of typhoid  
fever when he lived in Pennsylvania which  
undermined his constitution - it don't seem to  
me that he has <sup>not</sup> physical stamina to be a soldier  
he says he is going back - I doubt it - ~~His~~ Regiment  
38<sup>th</sup> Co<sup>r</sup> Ingraham is going to Hatter Head - I asked  
him if he couldn't serve his country more by  
staying at home - this I think is the opinion  
of his friends - He is very patriotic & earnest &  
it will be hard for him to resign - Did you re-  
ceive a paper containing a letter from Sam<sup>l</sup> Fort  
it was ~~written~~ <sup>written</sup> home - wasn't it excellent - The  
Brave Italian, Co<sup>r</sup> Maggi is at Warrenton with  
the Mass 33<sup>d</sup> Ready for action any moment - I never  
saw a man so imbued with the spirit of Liberty  
as Maggi - he has the principles of Mazzini &  
the military qualifications of Garibaldi combined  
Should his life be spared, he will probably be promoted  
Conway lectured before the Lyceum on Tuesday  
evening last - the same lecture he gave before the  
Fraternity Course - it was grand and electric -  
and universally liked - when he alluded to freedom  
there was great applause - I want to see you much  
shall you make us a visit this Fall or Winter - it is getting  
near dinner time & I must say with love to all  
Goodbye -  
Yrs truly  
Irene Ricketson

To Deborah Weston Westport 2